



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
RELEASES FY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation today released their Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report. Entitled *Toward World-Class Parks and Conservation – Building Efficiency and Effectiveness in Operations and Planning for the Future*, the report outlines the goals, activities and accomplishments, as well as the revenue and expenditure record for the agency, for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation carries a broad mandate in the area of natural, cultural, and recreational resource protection and promotion, managing 10% of the state's landmass and the state forests and parks, beaches, swimming pools, playgrounds, and parkways, among other properties. DCR also has responsibility for flood control and dam safety, watershed planning and management, public and private forest management, fire detection and suppression, and land and historic resources protection. Proposed by Governor Mitt Romney and approved by the State Legislature approximately one and one-half years ago, DCR was created through the merger of the former Metropolitan District Commission and the former Department of Environmental Management.

In announcing the report, Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington stated, "Critical to the progress made by DCR over the last year has been the hard work of dedicated agency staff, as well as the shared commitment of Governor Mitt Romney, the Massachusetts Legislature, numerous local officials, and a host of partners – park friends groups and advisory committees, community non-profit and statewide environmental organizations, private corporations, and thousands of volunteers."

Additionally he said, "DCR will continue to work in ensuring that we are on-track to providing the residents of Massachusetts world-class parks and recreational facilities. We recognize the need to push forward in the pursuit of new visions for outdoor recreation and resource conservation, and work in collaboration with an ever-broader level of citizen participation to meet our goals."

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Mitt Romney
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Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

The Department's Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report outlines activities undertaken by the agency to advance toward its four key goals for Fiscal Year 2005: to adopt first-rate management systems and practices; to demonstrate progress toward world-class parks and conservation; to address the deferred maintenance and repair needs; and, to foster public confidence and support.

EOEA Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard, said, "Integral to the long-term success of the new DCR and achieving World Class Parks is recognition that both long- and short-term tactics will be necessary if we're to achieve lasting progress. DCR is engaged in the development of baseline assessment and longer-range management plans for the operation and maintenance of its facilities. Through more effective management and increased public participation, we will not only see an improved accountability, but develop more interesting programs that will be more attractive, and encourage new visitors to our state parks."

The DCR Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report can be viewed at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr>, and copies can be obtained by calling 617-626-1250.

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